August 8, 2011

The regular meeting of the Sidney Public Schools Board of Trustees was held on Monday, August 8, 2011 at 7:00 PM in Room 104 of Central School. Present were Trustees Todd Hermanson, Luann Cooley, Kelly Dey, and Dexter Thiel. Also in attendance were Superintendent Farr, Clerk Beyer, High School Principal- Dan Peters, Middle School Principal- Kelly Johnson, Sidney Elementary Principal-Sue Andersen and Federal Programs/Testing Coordinator- Gary Arnold. Absent were Trustees Dennis Lorenz and Virginia Oraw and High School Assistant Principal- Loretta Thiel.

The meeting began at 6:30 PM with scheduled student educational hearings for the 2011-2012 school year. In attendance for these meetings were Trustees Kelly Dey and Dexter Thiel; Superintendent Farr and High School Principal- Dan Peters. Due to the absence of students and/or representatives scheduled to appear, no hearings were held.

Chairman Hermanson called the regular monthly meeting of the Board of Trustees to order at 7:09 PM and welcomed the visitors in attendance- Bill Vanderweele with the Sidney Herald and Gary Schaff. The chairman reminded those in attendance to sign in and stated that an opportunity for community comment on non-agenda items would be provided at the end of the meeting. Those wishing to address the board were asked to fill out the Audience Participation form and give it to the clerk to be recognized.

Ms. Dey moved to approve the minutes of the June 18th and June 29th, 2011- meetings. Mrs. Cooley provided the second to the motion which passed unanimously. Ms. Dey moved to approve the May 2011 claim warrants 219584 to 219628 in the amount of $412,119.80. Mr. Lorenz provided the second to the motion which passed 5 to 0.

With no Associated Student Body transfers to approve, the Trustees reviewed the July ASB report.

**SUPERINTENDENT’S REPORT:**

Superintendent Farr’s provided a recap of the following information:

- Thank you notes were received from the Richland County Ambulance Service, Nankivel family, Bernie Braden family and Nan Ruffatto- for raise and HRA accounts. Also received were: a letter from the Coloroda State dean acknowledging 4.0 Summa Cum Laude Sidney graduate, Amanda VanEvery, from their College of Business and informing the District that Vo-Ag Teacher, Gary Schaff, has received the Ideas Unlimited Awards from the National Association of Agricultural Educators, Inc.;

- 2011-2012 transfers include Lacey Nevins from High School to Middle School Volleyball, Bobbie Jo Hackmann from pre-school special education aide to elementary special education aide and Molly Cook-Fine from Food Service Worker to Central Custodian;

- Additions to the Consent Agenda include the new hire of Carrie Peters- 2nd Grade Teacher and the resignation of Ruben Moreno from Middle School Girls Basketball;

- Building principals provided a general overview of building construction projects as well as readiness updates. Superintendent Farr stated that B&B Builders was awarded the West Side Drainage project with plans to proceed as soon as possible and have it completed prior to the start of school;

- Superintendent Farr spoke to the cost of updating the ITV lab. Grant requests were rejected, use of this facility by the local community continues and the intention is to pay for this system with high school technology funds;

- Superintendent Farr continues to work with the OPI on the declined Middle School alternative library standard; and

- Board policy updates were provided to Trustees.

**COMMITTEE REPORTS:**

***PUBLIC RELATIONS AND PERSONNEL COMMITTEE: August 2, 2011***

Ms. Dey highlighted agenda items addressed by this committee:

- District vacancies were reviewed; Resignations and New Hires are on the Consent Agenda;

- Review of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Trustees and the SEA was conducted;

- Superintendent Farr presented the completed first draft of the Sidney Public Schools Job Description. Mrs. Cooley stated that she had reviewed the document and it contains everything the Trustees were looking for. She complemented Dr. Farr on a job well done and thanked him for all the time he put into it;

- Discussion has continued on implementing a board self-evaluation tool. Mr. Thiel spoke to the intent to have the building administrators evaluated the board. Mr. Hermanson added that staff members would be asked to participate in this evaluation process also; and

- Superintendent Farr reported that the District is working with two teachers and the Office of Public Instruction on provisional licensure: Guy Melby- an additional endorsement for Physical Education and Health and Erin Fontana for a broadfield social science endorsement.

***TRANSPORTATION COMMITTEE: August 2, 2011***

Ms. Dey outlined the following committee discussions:

- A request has been received from the Savage School District asking to be allowed to pick up additional students in the Sidney School District (Crane area). A response has been sent requesting that Savage respect District boundaries and agreements previously put in place between the Districts;

- 2011- 2012 bus inspections are being scheduled and Sidney Schools will host safety training for staff and surrounding schools on August 17, 2011;

- Due to federal changes to bandwidth requirements for radios, new radios have been purchased and installed in District buses;

- Dr. Farr updated the committee on the annual county transportation meeting stating that information will be coming out from all area schools informing people how the school transportation systems work. This relates to the increased building of homes all over the county- some with no road access; and

- Dr. Farr reported on his meeting with Chief DiFonzo regarding the non-working traffic lights on Central and the start of school. It is the intent of the state to begin operating the light by the Middle School in the morning and evening to assist with bus/student traffic.

***BUILDINGS AND GROUNDS COMMITTEE: August 1, 2011***

Mr. Thiel summarized Building and Grounds discussions:

- In the absence of representatives from ABC Building Concepts, Roger Byer of B&B Builders attended the meeting to provide project updates to the Trustees:

*High School 100 wing remodel: Roger addressed questions regarding floor finishes and district custodians finishing the floors. Discussions included the possibility that the wing may not be ready for occupancy with the start of school;*

*Punch list items in the High School 200 and 300 wings: Roger reports that most have been addressed. Concerns regarding the drain system in the high school kitchen will be referred to the architects/engineers as it is believed this is a design flaw. It must be corrected because it is a danger to kitchen staff;*

*Central HVAC punch list: Believed to be complete. Concerns with architect oversight again expressed. Outstanding bill for Olson Plumbing submitted a year and a half after they were last paid following contact between the District and the architect trying to tie up year-end encumbrance amounts for upcoming audit;*

*West Side HVAC System: Issues with locker supplier put project behind some but looking good for the start of school year; and*

*Middle School Second Floor Remodel: Ready for occupancy shortly. Mr. Thiel reported that he had talked with the HVAC people regarding the new system at the Middle School. He asked Mrs. Johnson to follow-up with the architect and request operations manuals for her building and the Administration Office. If they do not receive them, let him know and he will follow up on it.*

Other committee business included:

- *Parking lots at the high school have not been completed;*

*- Playground project will be ready for the start of school. Funding is currently short about $20,000.00;*

*- The EPA Asbestos Onsite Review went well with just a few suggestions*

*- A preliminary development plat map for the proposed Sunrise Village along the truck route near Shepherd of the Valley Church was reviewed. This will involve facility, staffing and infrastructure planning to accommodate the possibility of up to 500 additional students; and*

- *School readiness for August 22, 2011 continues to be at the forefront of district administrators. At this time, we have 56 new students Grades 1 through 8 and anticipate more when registration is held. Staffing/facility issues will be addressed as needs present themselves during registration.*

***FINANCE COMMITTEE: August 1, 2011***

Ms. Dey recapped committee discussion topics:

- 2011-2012 budget public meetings must be held prior to August 20th. Taxable valuations were just received and are lower than last year. Because of this, SB 329 changes and the ongoing challenges and unknowns in regards to staffing classrooms for the coming year, the recommendation will be to recess this public hearing until Thursday, August 25, 2011;

- Follow-up to the Interest Based Bargaining session and a draft of the Memorandum of Understanding were reviewed. HRA’s were discussed; and

- Dr. Farr presented an update on the Montana Quality Education Coalition. MQEC is considering the pursuit of legal avenues to make school funding more successful.

***CURRICULUM AND POLICY COMMITTEE: August 2, 2011***

Mr. Thiel reported on the following agenda discussions:

- Career and technical education curriculum updates are complete. Physical education curriculum is 90% complete and Mrs. Johnson is working on the social studies and science curricular updates.;

- Math and writing are the 2011-2012 curricular areas to be addressed;

- District final AYP status was reviewed;

- A small Migrant Education grant has been applied for;

- The Spirit Club has requested a new Associated Student Body account entitled Spirit Club; and

- A regional survey in regards to the need for higher education in the Sidney area will require a minimum of 30 to be usable data. It is intended to use this information at the Board of Regents meeting.

**CONSENT AGENDA:**

**Resignations**

- Pam Thiel – Food Service

- Ruben Moreno – Middle School Girls Basketball

- Lacey Nevins – Middle School Alternative Education Tutor

- Lori Alexander – High School Special Education Aide

- Emily Peterson – High School Special Education Aide

**New Hires**

- Rhea Christensen – Kindergarten Teacher

- Carrie Peters – Grade 2 Teacher

- Sherry Lessman – Food Service- Hot Cook

- Nicole Pope – Middle School Alternative Education Tutor

- Steve Lowrey – Technology Assistant

- Jerry Buske – Transportation Assistant

- Aunna Bertolino – High School Assistant Girls Basketball Varsity Coach

**Authorization of new ASB Account – Spirit Club**

**2011-2012 Change Accounts**

**-** High School – Associated Student Body (ASB) $2,500.00

**-** Middle Schools – Associated Student Body (ASB) $200.00

**-** Central, West Side, Middle School and High School – Lunch Change $30.00 each for a total of $120.00

**Sidney Public Schools Job Descriptions – First Reading of revised descriptions**

**2011-2012 Obsolete Property Disposal Resolution- Effective Date August 31, 2011**

*Computers and computer equipment including but not limited to monitors, keyboards, printers, mice, cpu’s and software, toys and games, reference books including encyclopedias, copiers, office furniture, office equipment, desks, tables, chairs, shelves, projectors and audio visual equipment, musical equipment and music, custodial equipment and supplies, maintenance equipment, lockers, books, old curriculum materials, textbooks, miscellaneous wood and fencing supplies, special education equipment and supplies, vo-ag equipment, science equipment and supplies, industrial arts equipment, kitchen/cafeteria equipment and supplies, refrigerators, and old classroom supplies.*

Ms. Dey moved to approve the consent agenda as presented. Mrs. Cooley seconded the motion which passed 4 to 0.

Chairman Hermanson opened the public hearing on the 2011-2012 budgets for Sidney Elementary District 5 and Sidney High School District 1. Clerk Beyer and Superintendent Farr discussed the difficulties involved in the budget process this year. Taxable valuations have fallen in both districts and representatives of the assessor’s office stated this was a result of a decrease in personal property taxes assessed as well as utilities. Senate bill 329 changes the budgeting for oil and gas funds received by the District and increased student enrollment has changed the staffing needs for 2011-2012 making it necessary to look closely at the budgets of the Flex Funds to make up the difference between what is needed to fund the upcoming school year and what we are allowed to budget in the general funds by state law. New students continue to provide challenges in the area of special needs services and may require additional personnel to meet student needs- a real challenge because of the decreasing federal IDEA monies and the rejection of the elementary levy request.

Mr. Thiel moved to accept the recommendation of Superintendent Farr to continue tonight’s meeting until Thursday, August 25, 2011 at which time Trustees will reconvene for the purpose of adopting final budgets and handling other district business. Ms. Dey seconded the motion which passed on a 4 to 0 vote.

At 7:43 PM Chairman Hermanson announced that the next matter to come before the Board was a personal matter and that he had determined as follows: 1) that the matter of the individual’s privacy is involved; 2) that such privacy demands protection of the individual for the sake of reputation, and otherwise, little, if anything, could be gained by publicly disclosing the information to be discussed; and 3) that the demand for privacy in this matter clearly exceeds the merits of public disclosure. Therefore, he called for an executive session for the purpose of a high school student’s education plan.

Following the student meeting, the review of the superintendent’s 2011-2012 annual performance goals was postponed until more Trustees can be in attendance. The meeting was recessed until August 25th, 2011, at 8:15 PM.

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Board Chair

Approved: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Attest:

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District Clerk